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**Sent:** 8/21/2019 9:43:23 PM  
**Subject:** R10 Highlights



# Region 10 Highlight

August 21, 2019

Photo taken by Steve Reimer (Manchester Lab) of fishing in Yukon

## Highlights from Recent Region 10 Weekly Reports

### *Greetings Region 10!*

Here's our next edition of the Region 10 Highlights. You can view additional highlights at [The Weekly](#) site.

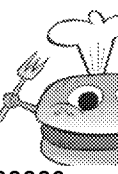
**Feds Feed Families ends this week – You Can Still Make a Difference!**

That's right, the 2019 Feds Feed Families campaign wraps up on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and you still have time to make difference and help your neighbors in need! We'll do our **final weigh-in at 3:00 pm on Tuesday August 27<sup>th</sup>** and count all items in the donation bins at that time. If you do a late **online delivery order**, make sure you get your donation info to your FFF coordinator by 3:00 pm August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Also, thank you if you were able to join in the Back-to-School Market Walk today. Check out the R10 FFF page for more information and a list of the 2019 FFF team members.



**2019 Awards Ceremony & Outdoor Reception:** Please join us on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> for our Region 1



Awards Ceremony in the 21<sup>st</sup> floor conference rooms between 9:45 am and 11:30 am. Afterwards, we will have our annual **Summer Outdoor Reception** between noon and 2:00 pm in Freeway Park (2<sup>nd</sup> floor entrance area of the Park Place building). Click on the Summer Reception flyer for more info on how to order your entrée ticket and a list of ticket sellers in the region. **Please purchase your ticket by 5:00 pm August 30<sup>th</sup>**. You can also choose to bring your own lunch and join us for the reception. Our goal is to make the reception a waste-free event, so please bring your own plate, cup, utensils, etc. Like last year, we will also plan to have lawn games and festivities!

Here are several other recent highlights from the past few weeks:

**Settlements over Kensington Mine operations, Alaska:** EPA has reached three settlements with Coeur Alaska Inc., over discharge violations from its gold mining operation at Kensington Mine, located 45 miles northwest of Juneau, Alaska. As part of the agreement, Coeur Alaska will pay three separate penalties totaling \$534,500 for violating their individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for industrial wastewater discharges and the Multi-Sector General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity for failing to report releases of nitrate compounds through the Toxic Release Inventory.

**Regional Administrator Tour of Phillips 66 Refinery and Taylor Shellfish at Samish Bay, Washington:** On August 1, along with state and local partners, I toured Taylor Shellfish at Samish Bay. Samish Bay has 4,000 acres of commercial shellfish beds and removing fecal pathogens from the watershed to upgrade the status to "approved" is a major priority of the Puget Sound Geographic Program's Shellfish Strategic Initiative. This day followed a tour of the Ferndale Phillips 66 refinery located on Puget Sound in northwest Washington.

**Drinking WATERS Awards to Pasco, Washington and Orofino, Idaho:** In late July, Region 10 presented WATER awards to the cities of Pasco and Orofino in recognition of both city's substantial upgrades to their drinking water systems.

Pasco used a \$7 million loan from Washington's Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund to replace milfoil

plagued intakes from the Columbia River with a new intake with a mechanical cleaning system. A 30-foot by 85-foot deep caisson was constructed near the existing intake, and was connected to the new intake via microtunneling. The DWSRF loan term is at 1.5% interest for 20 years and will save Pasco ratepayers approximately \$1.5 million in finance charges over the life of the loan as compared to other financing available at the time.

Orofino received a \$9.7 million loan from Idaho's Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund recently to construct a new water treatment plant, construct a new water intake in the Clearwater River, and upgrade a reservoir and transmission lines. Orofino will save an estimated 15 million gallons of water and 212,700 kWh of electricity per year, and reduce chemical use by 90%. The project was made significantly more affordable for ratepayers through \$2.5 million in principal forgiveness, as well as a 30-year loan term and a 0% interest rate.

**The WATERS Awards** The EPA Region 10 WATERS award program recognizes exceptional drinking water facility improvement projects. WATERS award winners are nominated by state DWSRF staff as projects that help water systems maintain or return to compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, as well as achieve one or more elements of the WATERS award:

- Well-planned;
- Affordability (a smart bargain for utility customers);
- Transferable technologies, ideas and approaches that other communities can also use;
- Efficiency improvements for energy and/or water;
- Resiliency and/or
- Sustainability attributes.

**Pacific Northwest Environmental Directors' Meeting:** Last month, I hosted the Pacific Northwest Environmental Directors' meeting in Seattle. Attendees include directors and commissioners from Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington environmental agencies plus regional leadership from Environmental Canada and Climate Change and the British Columbia and Alberta environmental ministries. Agenda topics included: agency priorities, water quality governance and standards issues, emerging plastics strategies in the U.S. and Canada, PFAS and Oil recovery.



Thank you for your continued efforts to protect public health and the environment here in Region 10. Enjoy remainder of your summer and I look forward to seeing you at the awards ceremony and summer reception

Chris